

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be reexamined.

Claims 1-9 and 11-23 are pending in this application. The Office Action mailed November 26, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action"), objected to the disclosure because of informalities. In addition, Claims 1-9 and 11-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0075312, to Amadio et al. (hereinafter "Amadio et al."), and U.S. Patent No. 6,651,216, issued to Sullivan et al. (hereinafter "Sullivan"). While applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons set forth below, a clarifying amendment has been made to Claim 1, and grammatical corrections have been made to Claims 13 and 15.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and for the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Prior to discussing in detail why applicants believe that all the claims in this application are allowable, a brief description of the disclosed subject matter and brief descriptions of the teachings of the cited and applied references are provided. The following descriptions of the disclosed subject matter and the cited and applied references are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, these descriptions are provided solely to assist the United States Patent and Trademark Office in recognizing the differences between the pending claims and the cited references, and should not be construed as limiting on the disclosed subject matter.

Disclosed Subject Matter

A method and system that renders a graphical user interface including at least one viewable graphical element, the graphical element having a filename associated therewith, the filename being absent from the user interface, is provided. A method for reviewing a data associated with a filename and a format of the filename, the filename having an associated icon; determining if a filename is displayed based on the reviewing step; and congregating icons without displayable filenames in at least one row, the number of icons congregated in the at least one row being greater than a comparable row with icons having filenames being displayed, or

aligning a graphic element without displayable filenames more closely with surrounding graphical elements by reducing the space therebetween.

Summary of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0075312 - Amadio et al.

Amadio et al. describes a way of providing pertinent information about an item (e.g., a text file, a picture file, a music file, video file, or any other similar file). Graphical information about the item along with user-selectable properties that are specific to that item are provided. A way of sorting the items by the user-selectable properties and communicating the sort order to the user is described. While describing a way of providing pertinent information about a file, Amadio et al. is not directed to reducing the amount of space occupied by a plurality of graphical elements including at least one graphical element having a filename when the plurality of graphical elements is rendered on a graphical user interface.

Summary of U.S. Patent No. 6,651,216 - Sullivan et al.

Sullivan et al. purportedly describes a way to link a workbook so that it retrieves data from, calculates totals, and posts data back to a database. A user gives a single command to add or delete a row from all relevant pages of the workbook, with each row being logically linked to an item in the database, such as a student in a class, tree in a test plot, or customer in a sales region.

Objection to the Disclosure

As indicated above, the disclosure was objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Office Action notes that in Claim 15, the phrase "wherein **the the** at least one graphical element" should read "wherein **the** at least one graphical element." Claim 15 has been amended to correct this informality.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 and 11-23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As indicated above, Claims 1-9 and 11-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Amadio et al. and Sullivan. Remarks accompanying the rejection of Claims 1-9 and 11-23 in the Office Action state:

Regarding claim 1, Amadio teaches a method for reducing the amount of space occupied by a plurality of graphical elements including at least one graphical element having a filename when the plurality of graphical elements is rendered on a graphical user interface (see Amadio Figure 2 and paragraph [0006]; *"Thumbnails, list, and icon views, for example, provide very minimal information about the item making it difficult for the user to identify the item and its properties. Details view, on the other hand, displays numerous properties for the item, typically more information than is required, resulting in wasted space in the view. In addition, details view displays the same properties for each item regardless of the item type. For instance, in details view, the same properties would be displayed for a text file as a music file. Showing the author of the file may be pertinent for a text file but not for a music file. As a result, unimportant information is displayed"*, it is a goal of Amadio to reduce wasted space in the view by only displaying pertinent information about a file), comprising: determining for each graphical element of the plurality of graphical elements if a filename is or is not to be displayed with the graphical element when the graphical element is rendered, the determination being based on the type of object that the graphical element represents (see Amadio paragraph [0035]; *"with the present invention the relevant properties that are displayed in slot 508 are specific to that item type. That is, depending on the item type, different properties will be displayed in slot 508"*, the filename is a property that might be determined to be irrelevant to the display of image files); for each graphical element of the plurality of graphical elements whose filename is displayed with the graphical element when the graphical element is rendered, rendering the graphical element and the filename on the graphical user interface (see Amadio paragraph [0035]; *"with the present invention the relevant properties that are displayed in slot 508 are specific to that item type. That is, depending on the item type, different properties will be displayed in slot 508"*, files in which the filename is determined to be a relevant property will have the filename displayed); and for each graphical element of the plurality of graphical elements whose filename is not to be displayed with the graphical element when the graphical element is rendered, rendering the graphical element, but not the filename, on the graphical user interface (see Amadio paragraph [0035]; *"with the present invention the relevant properties that are displayed in slot 508 are specific to that item type. That is, depending on the item type, different properties will be displayed in slot 508"*, files in which the filename is determined to be an irrelevant property will not have the filename displayed). Amadio does not explicitly teach for each graphical element of the plurality of graphical elements whose filename is not to be displayed with the graphical element when the graphical element is rendered, adjusting the alignment of the plurality of graphical elements on the graphical user interface to reduce the amount of space occupied by the plurality of graphical elements. Sullivan teaches adjusting the graphical

elements on the graphical user interface to reduce the amount of space occupied by the graphical elements when rows are hidden (see Sullivan column 8 lines 1-5; *"changing the values of this table's Visible and Row fields will cause header rows to become visible or hidden and will shift the visible ones up or down on the screen"*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to shift the rows of file icons upward when information is hidden as taught by Sullivan in the invention of Amadio for the purpose of reducing wasted space in the graphical user interface.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Specifically, applicants disagree with the Office Action that Amadio et al. is directed to reducing the amount of space occupied by a plurality of graphical elements including at least one graphical element having a filename when the plurality of graphical elements is rendered on a graphical user interface. The Office Action infers from the quoted paragraph [0006] of Amadio et al. that "it is a goal of Amadio et al. to reduce wasted space in the view by only displaying pertinent information about a file." Nowhere in the referenced paragraph [0006] or elsewhere does Amadio et al. state the goal of reducing the space occupied by graphical elements. In fact, paragraph [0007] states that "there is still a need for a user interface display of items where only pertinent information about an item is presented to the user." Paragraph [0010] further states that the object of Amadio et al. is "to display concise useful information about an item" and "to provide information about an item that is specific to that type of item." Thus, contrary to the Office Action assertion, the goal of Amadio et al. is not to reduce space by displaying pertinent information, but to actually display pertinent information that is specific, concise, and useful. In summary, Amadio et al. is not directed to "a method for reducing the amount of space occupied by a plurality of graphical elements" as recited in the preamble of Claim 1.

Applicants further disagree that Amadio et al. discloses the "determining for each graphical element of the plurality of graphical elements if a filename is or is not to be displayed with the graphical element when the graphical element is rendered, the determination being based on the type of object that the graphical element represents" recitation of Claim 1. Paragraph [0035] of Amadio et al., referenced by the Office Action, states that "depending on the

item type, different properties will be displayed in slot 508." The Office Action infers from this statement that "files in which the filename is determined to be an irrelevant property will not have the filename displayed." Applicants disagree. There is simply no basis for this inference in Amadio et al. Applicant has been unable to find where Amadio et al. describes a process for "determining for each graphical element of the plurality of graphical elements if a filename is or is not to be displayed." Amadio et al. only states that "the relevant properties of the item" will be displayed without providing any details as to how the relevancy of a property is determined.

Amadio et al. considers a filename as relevant property for any item. Paragraph [0035] of Amadio et al. provides examples of relevant properties for text, music, picture, and video files, all of which necessarily include a filename. Amadio et al. does not disclose separately determining whether a filename is a relevant property. In contrast, Claim 1 recites a determination of whether "a filename is or is not to be displayed with the graphical element," i.e., whether to display a filename for a particular item. Since Amadio et al. does not separately determine whether a filename is a relevant property, Amadio et al. does not meet this recitation.

For the same reasons, Amadio et al. fails to disclose the "for each graphical element of the plurality of graphical elements whose filename is to be displayed with the graphical element when the graphical element is rendered, rendering the graphical element and the filename on the graphical user interface" and "for each graphical element of the plurality of graphical elements whose filename is not to be displayed with the graphical element when the graphical element is rendered, . . . rendering the graphic element, but not the filename, on the graphical user interface" recitations of Claim 1. In its discussion of these recitations, the Office Action relies to the same text of paragraph [0035] of Amadio et al. as it does in regard to the recitation discussed above. As shown above, Amadio et al. does not describe the determination of whether or not the filename should be displayed. Therefore, Amadio et al. fails to describe the rendering the filename to the interface as a result of this determination, and thus also fails to disclose the above recitations of Claim 1.

Finally, applicants disagree that Amadio et al., combined with Sullivan, discloses the "adjusting the alignment of the plurality of graphical elements on the graphical user interface to reduce the amount of space occupied by the plurality of graphical elements" recitation of Claim 1. Applicants respectfully point out that, contrary to the Office Action assertion, combining the teachings of Amadio et al. and Sullivan et al. will not lead to any meaningful result. Sullivan et al. describes "a way to navigate among worksheets in a workbook linked to a database that involves double-clicking on a cell in a page." (See e.g., Abstract.) Column 8 lines 1-5 of Sullivan et al. describe "changing the values of this table's Visible and Row fields will cause header rows to become visible or hidden and will shift the visible ones up or down on the screen."

Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious at the time this invention was made how Sullivan's hiding and subsequent shifting rows in a spreadsheet can be meaningfully combined with the teachings of Amadio et al., so as "to shift the rows of file icons upward when information is hidden as taught by Sullivan." It is clear that the rows of elements on a graphical user interface may not be hidden. Furthermore, the "adjusting the alignment of the plurality of graphical elements" could be accomplished by a variety of ways, not just by shifting the rows. For example, icons within one row may be shifted closer together. (See Application, p. 7, lines 29-30; p. 8, lines 1-4.) Sullivan et al. does not disclose that kind of adjustment.

In order to better distinguish Claim 1 from Amadio et al. in view of Sullivan, Claim 1 has been amended to include "the adjusting the alignment of the plurality of graphical elements on the graphical user interface including aligning a graphical element more closely with surrounding graphical elements by reducing the space therebetween." This subject matter is clearly not taught or suggested by either Amadio et al. or Sullivan et al. as best as applicants have been able to determine.

Because Amadio et al., even if combined with Sullivan, does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the recitations of Claim 1, as amended, applicants submit that Claim 1 is allowable over Amadio et al., taken alone or in combination with Sullivan.

Claims 2-9 and 11-12 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, and thus are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1, as amended, is submitted to be allowable.

Claim 11 is submitted to be allowable for at least one additional reason. Applicants point out that "adjusting at least a row of the plurality of graphical elements whose filenames are not to be displayed so that the graphical elements are proximately closer to one another as compared to a positioning of the graphical elements whose filenames are to be displayed," recited in Claim 11, is different than "shifting the rows upward." (See Office Action, p. 7, referencing Sullivan.) The adjusting of graphical elements, as recited in Claim 11, may include the instance when the graphical elements are displayed proximately closer to one another within one row. This type of adjustment may not be achieved by "shifting the rows upward." Therefore, Sullivan, referenced in the Office Action in its rejection of Claim 11, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the adjusting of graphical elements recited in Claim 11.

Independent Claim 13 contains at least some of the same subject matter as Claim 1 that differentiates Claim 1 from the cited and applied references. Therefore, Claim 13 is submitted to be allowable for at least some of the same reasons as Claim 1. Claims 14-21 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 13, and thus are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 13.

Independent Claim 22 recites the same subject matter as Claim 1, as amended, and is submitted to be allowable under the same rationale as Claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that independent Claim 23 "recites a method with substantially the same limitations as claim 12" and rejects Claim 23 under the same rationale as Claim 12. While applicants respectfully disagree with the rationale for rejecting Claim 12. Applicants

point out that Claim 23 recites subject matter that is different than that of Claim 12. While Claim 12 recites "shifting a row of graphical elements whose filenames are to be displayed vertically upward," Claim 23 recites "congregating icons . . . in at least one row." Clearly, congregating icons in one row is different than shifting a row of graphical elements. Thus, Claim 23 recites different subject matter.

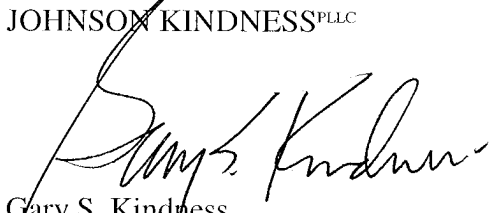
Because Claim 23 recites subject matter different than that of Claim 12, applicants submit that Claim 12 is not be rejectable under the same rationale as Claim 12. In absence of the rationale for rejecting Claim 23, applicants submit that Claim 23 is in allowable condition.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the remaining claims in this application are allowable. Consequently, early and favorable action passing this application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any remaining questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



Gary S. Kindness
Registration No. 22,178
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1702

GSK/VXR:mmm